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REMARKS

Claims 28, 29, 35, 40, 41, 51 and 54 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being unpatentable by Henzler et al. '789. Claims 31, 37, 38, 42 and 43 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789, claims 44 and 55 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789 in view of Pels et al. '247, claims 45, 46 and 56 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789 in view of Kobayashi '168; claim 47 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789 in view of Hall, III '705; claims 48-50 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789 in view of Pels et al. '247, and claims 52 and 53 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henzler et al. '789 in view of Smith '483. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised anticipatory and obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 30 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, the subject matter of claim 30 is incorporated into independent claim 28 while claim 34 is appropriately revised to be an independent claim, and those two amended independent claims are both now believed to be allowable. As all of the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 28, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In addition, the claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention to overcome possible 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections. The entered claim

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amendments are directed solely at overcoming possible indefiniteness rejection(s) and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Henzler et al. '789, Pels et al. '247, Kobayashi '168, Hall, III '705 and Smith '483 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

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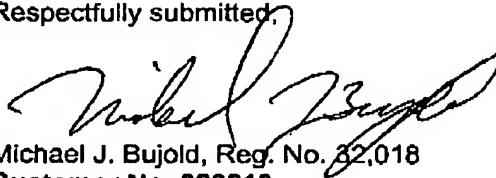
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The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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